

B) Ellipse

The general equations of an ellipse is very similar to that of the circle: we could write the equation of the circle as $\frac{x^2}{r^2} + \frac{y^2}{r^2} = 1$, and because the ellipse is longer in one direction than the other, the divided r^2 value beneath the x^2 is different than the one under the y^2 .

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

$$a > b > 0$$

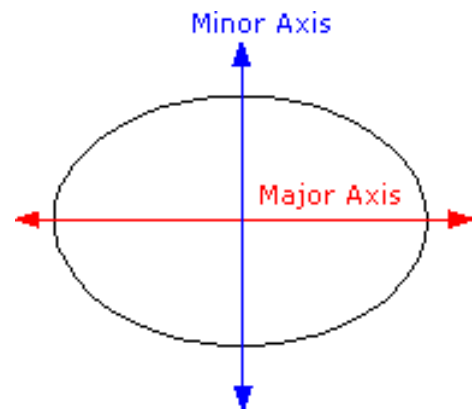
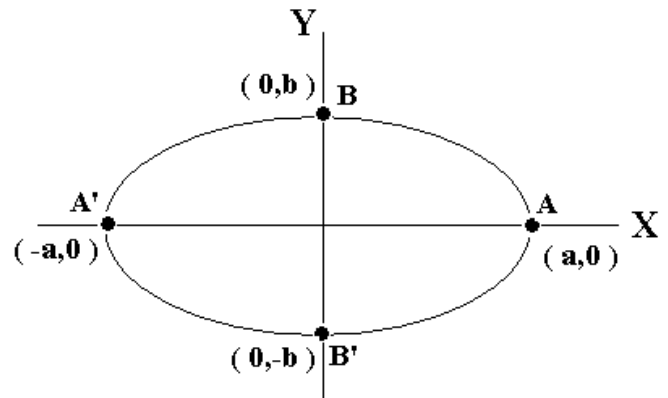
$$\text{Centre} = (0, 0)$$

Major axis = $2a$ (distance btwn horizontal edges)

$$\text{Minor axis} = 2b$$

** If $b > a > 0$, then the major axis is $2b$, minor axis is $2a$.*

Translation: $\frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} = 1$ Centre = (h, k)



COMPLETING THE SQUARE FOR AN ELLIPSE

Examples:

1) Complete the square for the equation $x^2 - 4x + 4y^2 = 0$ and graph the ellipse. Label the main features (centre, horizontal edges, vertical edges).

$$x^2 - 4x + 4y^2 = 0$$

$$\left[x^2 - 4x + \left(\frac{-4}{2}\right)^2 \right] + 4y^2 = 0 + \left(\frac{-4}{2}\right)^2$$

$$[x^2 - 4x + 4] + 4y^2 = 0 + 4$$

$$(x - 2)^2 + 4y^2 = 4$$

$$\frac{(x - 2)^2}{4} + \frac{4y^2}{4} = 1$$

$$\frac{(x-2)^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{1} = 1$$

$$\frac{(x - 2)^2}{2^2} + \frac{y^2}{1^2} = 1$$

So the centre is $(2, 0)$, $a = 2$, $b = 1$.
Horizontal edges = $(4, 0)$ and $(0, 0)$.
Vertical edges = $(2, 1)$ and $(2, -1)$.

2) Complete the square for the equation $x^2 + 4y^2 - 6x + 16y + 21 = 0$ and graph the ellipse. Label the main features (centre, horizontal edges, vertical edges).

$$x^2 + 4y^2 - 6x + 16y + 21 = 0$$

$$[x^2 - 6x] + [4y^2 + 16y] = -21$$

$$[x^2 - 6x] + 4[y^2 + 4y] = -21$$

$$\left[x^2 - 6x + \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2\right] + 4\left[y^2 + 4y + \left(\frac{4}{2}\right)^2\right] = -21 + \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 + 4\left(\frac{4}{2}\right)^2$$

$$[x^2 - 6x + 9] + 4[y^2 + 4y + 4] = -21 + 9 + 4 \cdot 4$$

$$(x - 3)^2 + 4(y + 2)^2 = 4$$

$$\frac{(x - 3)^2}{4} + \frac{4(y + 2)^2}{4} = \frac{4}{4}$$

$$\frac{(x - 3)^2}{4} + \frac{(y + 2)^2}{1} = 1$$

$$\frac{(x - 3)^2}{2^2} + \frac{(y + 2)^2}{1^2} = 1$$

So the centre is (3, -2), a = 2, b = 1.
Horizontal edges = (5, -2) and (1, -2).
Vertical edges = (3, -1) and (3, -3).

3) Complete the square for the equation $3x^2 - 18x + 5y^2 - 20y + 32 = 0$ and graph the ellipse. Label the main features (centre, horizontal edges, vertical edges).

$$3x^2 - 18x + 5y^2 - 20y + 32 = 0$$

$$3[x^2 - 6x] + 5[y^2 - 4y] = -32$$

$$3\left[x^2 - 6x + \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2\right] + 5\left[y^2 - 4y + \left(\frac{-4}{2}\right)^2\right] = -32 + 3\left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 + 5\left(\frac{-4}{2}\right)^2$$

$$3[x^2 - 6x + 9] + 5[y^2 - 4y + 4] = -32 + 3 \cdot 9 + 5 \cdot 4$$

$$3(x - 3)^2 + 5(y - 2)^2 = 15$$

$$\frac{3(x - 3)^2}{15} + \frac{5(y - 2)^2}{15} = \frac{15}{15}$$

$$\frac{(x - 3)^2}{5} + \frac{(y - 2)^2}{3} = 1$$

$$\frac{(x - 3)^2}{(\sqrt{5})^2} + \frac{(y - 2)^2}{(\sqrt{3})^2} = 1$$

So the centre is (3, 2), a = $\sqrt{5}$, b = $\sqrt{3}$.
Horizontal edges = (3 + $\sqrt{5}$, 2) and (3 - $\sqrt{5}$, 2).
Vertical edges = (3, 2 + $\sqrt{3}$) and (3, 2 - $\sqrt{3}$).

Worksheet

Delta Ex 37.3 pg 362 Q1, 2, 3, 5, 8 (ignore foci)

Extension: Ex 37.3 Q4, 6, 7, 9